

# Happiness Pony

Worcester’s Journal of Category Studies

HAPPINESSPONY.COM

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A GIFT.

## Becoming a Catholic Worker: 100 Suggestions

by Bill Wylie-Kellermann

Take the Sermon on the Mount very seriously. • Don’t take yourself too seriously. • Convene the kingdom of God over soup. • Compel them to come in. • Ask how far the line goes back. • Embrace holy mother poverty. • Try and figure out where your allowance went last month. • Consider vigiling in the hospital emergency room to be an intercession. • Pray in places where it is forbidden. • Draw a line. • Stand on it. • Get arrested. • Do jail time as a monastic retreat or at least a vacation. • Reside in the margins. • Receive mail for guests who left years ago. • Suffer thievery. • Persevere in non sequitur conversation. • Bless those who curse you, including guests. • Clarify your thoughts. • Be stunned at the phone bill. • Honor conscience, in yourself and others. • Swing the mop like a flashy dance partner. • Be skeptical of forms, bureaucracies, institutions, and people who put you on hold. • Refuse to be called a saint. • Keep an advent journal and share it with your friends. • Create a tradition, and nourish it. • Plot the demise of small rodents. • Try writing an easy essay. • Find out it’s harder than you think. • Learn to say you’re not on the house today. • Agonize over your church. • Rage against patriarchy. • Never prepare a pre-sentencing statement. • Take your chances on the Holy Spirit. • Hold small children on your lap. • Find love a harsh and dreadful thing. • Find love. • Bless the food in the making. • Be civil when answering the phone at 3 A.M. • (You may swear it if rings again immediately.) • Make the run to Crown Candy and try not to bring back too much ice cream. • Devise new recipes for zucchini. • Discern the times. • Take time. • Give time. Do time. • Add thyme. • There’s no such thing as too much garlic, but take it easy on the red pepper. • Dress (tastefully) from the clothing room. • Build a new society in the shell of the old. • Try and figure out who’s pilfering toilet paper. • Find a new place to hide on your day off. • Read Gandhi in jail. • After awhile, throw away the I.O.U.s. • Reach your limit and put a guest out. • Argue over where the limits are. • Keep a stash of banners (liturgical and political) in the basement. • Don’t let the principalities get you down. • Whip up a carrot cake for someone’s wedding. • Walk the way of the cross through the streets of your city. • Study the faces of folk down and out. • Curse the filthy, rotten system. • Marvel at the survival skills of your guest. • Weep quietly in your room when necessary. • Stay in touch. • Sweat. • Beg. • Track down a foul smell. • (Look behind the couch.) • Pick through crates and trash at Soulard Market for edibles. • Be a go-giver. • Loan your car to excess. • Call yourself a personalist. • Clean wounds. • Figure out who keeps turning up the heat. • Scrounge for pampers in a crisis. • Practice non-violence. • Tipple the communion wine only on rare occasion. • Learn to juggle. • Refuse to keep records to get government money. • Refuse government money. • Hell, refuse to pay taxes. • Argue economics over coffee. • Argue over economics and coffee. • Pray more or less faithfully. • Do things for the love of Christ. • Have a painting party and serve burritos. • Put a candle in a jar. • Take it to a missile factory. • Wait for people to come and go. • Negotiate a household truce. • Scrub soup pots as an exercise in contemplation. • Visit prisoners. • Be one. • Buy a farm. • Lay out the paper with a flair for graphics. • Mark anniversaries. • Celebrate the Incarnation.



## Strange Objects, Life on the Island, News, Visitors, and Dreams

The Wikipedia entry on “Gilligan’s Island” considers these to be the five recurring themes of the show. Inventions made of bamboo or coconuts are not their own category, but are lumped in with “life on the island.”

## Breakfasts

The morning meal is commonly regarded as **breakfast**. Since 1895 **brunch** has been the word for a casual, social Sunday meal that breaks the weekday meal schedule, falling somewhere between late morning and mid-afternoon.

American readers will know **second breakfast** and **elevenses** from *The Hobbit*, but they are actual traditional meals, not inventions of Tolkein. The Bavarians call second breakfast zweites Frühstück, and the Poles call it drugie śniadanie. The Swedes call elevenses elva-kaffe (which sadly means “eleven-coffee” and not “Elvish coffee”). Winnie-the-Pooh and Paddington Bear both observed elevenses.

When you stay up all night, the first meal after sunrise is **deep breakfast**. It is traditionally eaten at a diner with those joining you on your sleepless adventure.

## Fire, a White Lady’s Nude Torso, a Forest, Windows, the Sky, and Spherical Bells

These are the six items depicted in René Magritte’s painting “The Six Elements.”

## Plastic

Many plastic items are stamped with a code for use in recycling those items. The different types of plastic must be separated before being melted down. Not every recycling system accepts all types; the little triangle of arrows means somebody somewhere could recycle it, but not necessarily your local recycler. Worcester’s municipal recycling system does not exclude any particular type of plastic. You can recycle Plastic Jugs, Bottles, Jars, and most other plastic items with the recycling symbol, but must trash Plastic Bags, Egg Cartons, Styrofoam, Plastic Toys, Flower Pots, Buckets, and Pails.

The ♻️types of plastic are 1—Polyethylene terephthalate; 2—High-density polyethylene; 3—Polyvinyl chloride; 4—Low-density polyethylene; 5—Polypropylene; 6—Polystyrene; and 7—other.

Life is always on the edge of death; narrow streets lead to the same place as wide avenues, and a little candle burns itself out just like a flaming torch does. I choose my own way to burn.

Sophie Scholl

**Worcester VegFest**  
**Sunday, April 6**  
**11am-5pm**  
**DCU Center**  
**free admission**  
**free street parking**  
**lots of food samples**  
[worcestervegfest.com](http://worcestervegfest.com)

What about gossip? The brain biologically wants to have 150 friends. Then when you are with one of your friends you can gossip about any of the other 150. If you don’t have 150 friends then the brain wants to read gossip magazines until it thinks it has 150 friends. Don’t be as stupid as your brain.

James Altucher

"Mothers News"  
IT IS A  
NEWSPAPER.  
[mothersnews.net](http://mothersnews.net)



**HX Library**  
Burnt books from across the city. Science fiction & unconventional politics. Across from Diamond Chevrolet. Moving to Stone Soup in March.

**TV13**  
**WCCa**  
Cable access for Worcester on channel 13.  
[wccatv.com](http://wccatv.com)

CLASSIFIED ADS  
BOOKS, YIDDISH+ENGLISH

Not In The Same Breath by Zackary Sholem Berger: 1/3 Yiddish, 1/3 English, 2/3 Pretty Pictures. [bit.ly/NITSBAmazon](http://bit.ly/NITSBAmazon)

Cat In The Hat and Curious George in Yiddish. [yiddishcat.com](http://yiddishcat.com)

MUGS, TIKI

Scallywag Ceramics. Exotic curiosities. [scallywagceramics.com](http://scallywagceramics.com)





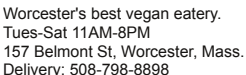
Sure, Albert Camus won the 1957 Nobel Prize for Literature. And some people think that makes him a 20th century dinosaur. But when confronted with the apparent meaninglessness of life and the constant struggle it requires, you could do worse than have this intellectual T. Rex in your corner.

Camus. As relevant as ever. Now 10% off with this ad.

*sketch courtesy Petr Vorel*

# Belmont

Vegetarian Restaurant



In our early school days, we learned about three types of clouds: **stratus** (flat), **cumulus** (puffy), and **cirrus** (wispy). These are broken up into subcategories based on altitude, physical structure, and other factors. A potential new cloud classification, **undulatus asperatus**, was identified in 2009. It is a violent, wavy cloud associated with thunderstorms. Is it a fourth category? The World Meteorological Organization has not made a determination.

Biological sex is determined by multiple factors: sex chromosomes (XX, XY, XXY, XO), hormones, external genitalia, and internal sex organs. Some researchers include secondary sex characteristics (body hair, shape of hips, etc.) as well. We are taught to think of sex as two distinct categories where the factors line up into two columns, but millions of people have bodies that do not fit into this scheme, and are labeled intersex. In her 1993 essay “The Five Sexes,” Dr. Anne Fausto-Sterling proposed five categories as a thought experiment to acknowledge the variance within intersex people and to create a conversation around our binary view of sex. (Besides male and female, she had categories for those with testes and some female genitalia, those with ovaries and some male genitalia, and those with a testicle and an ovary.) Many cultures acknowledge a third gender, with several countries including one on their official forms. (*Jen Burt*)

A certain segment of the nerdocracy holds that the world of thinking creatures should be classified by “alignment,” as it is in Dungeons & Dragons. Imagine a 3×3 grid with **good**, **neutral**, or **evil** on one axis and **law**, **neutrality**, or **chaos** on the other. Every heroic and despicable character falls in between. Consider the notable pillars: Lawful Good, King Arthur, a model of virtue; Chaotic Good, Robin Hood, a noble brigand; Lawful Evil, Magneto, honest but treacherous; Chaotic Evil, The Joker, pandæmonium incarnate. But what of the middle road? True Neutral. What is it to do neither good nor bad; to neither love law nor abhor it; do you work to keep the balance or bend like a river? What does a Neutral-Neutral person do when confronted by an argument between unmatched opponents? Is neutrality watching and observing? Or is it helping the less-skillful debater to keep the sides balanced? Is it active or passive? The middle road is the hardest of them all. (*Ryan Merten*)

As a youth, you may have learned that the tongue senses sweet tastes at the tip, salty and sour tastes at the sides, and bitter tastes towards the back. This lie is based on Harvard psychologist Edwin Garrigues Boring's confused 1942 interpretation of a 1901 paper by David P. Hänig. In 1974, Virginia Collings revisited the topic and found that every part of the tongue can taste every taste. See: Human Taste Response as a Function of Locus of Stimulation on the Tongue and Soft Palate. *Perception & Psychophysics*, 16: 169–174.

Note that before teaching at Harvard, Boring was a professor at Clark University, but left after Wallace Walter Atwood was appointed Clark president; Atwood accused Boring of being a Bolshevik and generally did not think psychological research valuable.

Note also that in recent decades Western scientists accept a fifth taste to accompany sweet, sour, salty, and bitter: umami, the savory flavor of L-glutamate and 5'-ribonucleotides. This flavor is most noticeable in ripe tomatoes, fish sauce, cheese, soy sauce, and MSG. (*Mike Benedetti. Art by Aiden Duffy. From the September 2011 issue of Happiness Pony.*)



These ambiguities, redundancies and deficiencies remind us of those which doctor Franz Kuhn attributes to a certain Chinese encyclopaedia entitled 'Celestial Empire of benevolent Knowledge'. In its remote pages it is written that the animals are divided into: (a) belonging to the emperor, (b) embalmed, (c) tame, (d) sucking pigs, (e) siemens, (f) fabulous, (g) stray dogs, (h) included in the present classification, (i) frenzied, (j) innumerable, (k) drawn with a very fine camellia hair brush, (l) et cetera, (m) having just broken the water pitcher, (n) that from a long way off look like flies.

*Jorge Luis Borges*



The “Boy with a Turtle” statue behind City Hall is no doubt Worcester’s greatest symbol. We have created a 3-dimensional digital model of the Turtle Boy that can be printed on a 3D printer. Or, you can order your own 3 3/4-inch tall Turtle Boy statuette. For more details, please visit: [landlubber.com/turtleboy](http://landlubber.com/turtleboy)

